

# A GAME OF WAR GUARDSMEN DEFEND THE CITY FROM INVASION BY A MIMIC Foe.



HOW VAN CORTLANDT FIELD WAS WON.

First Brigade's Annual Struggle at Van Cortlandt Park Was a Great Success—Horse, Foot and Infantry Fought with Blank-Cartridge Fury Over Westchester Hills and Highways.

NEW YORK knows now what kind of a figure its National Guard cuts in the field, with an invading foe at its back and defenceless Manhattan at its back.

The rugged hills, cool valleys, winding roads and shining levels, which go to make up Van Cortlandt Park were a battleground yesterday. From some time long ago in Friday night until the shadows began to lengthen yesterday afternoon, the park was given over to mimic war.

But it was not the cut and dried, old fashioned Fourth of July sham battle of our daddies. It was mimic war with a tinge of the real article to it. It would have pleased that first of all modern holiday soldiers, the war lord of Germany.

The New York regiments gave a touch of their quality to whoever cared to go watch them, and when the conflict was over, when the last gun had echoed over Westchester, and the smoke had rolled away, when the carbine had been laid aside for the cup, that grizzled and rubicund old warrior, Major-General Wesley Merritt, U. S. A., who had seen it all, said it was "good war."

**Game of War.**

The object of the day's great doings was to discover what kind of a job half of our soldier boys would make of stopping, upon short notice, the advance of 3,000 men, horse, foot and artillery, hastening down the Hudson's shores as the advance guard of a great army, whose aim was to destroy New York.

The question, perhaps, was suggested by the recent declaration by a Canadian military enthusiast that in case of war between the United States and England the soldier men of the Dominion would dash over the border and promptly carve their way through the intervening country to our metropolis, while the queen's fleets attended to the business of demoralizing our seaboard.

The engagement of yesterday proved that such an intruder ever comes on such an errand he will find a spicy welcome. It was the first mock battle the New York guardsmen have ever waged in which involved the element of uncertainty as to the whereabouts and purpose of the enemy.

To effect this condition, the entire First Brigade was parted in half in such fashion that the branches of the service—infantry, cavalry and artillery—were divided between the attack and defence. The "Western force," as the invaders were called, comprised the Eighth, Ninth, Tenth and Twelfth regiments of infantry, the First Battery of artillery and one troop of Squadron A.

In the "Eastern" or defending body were the Seventh, Sixty-ninth and Seventy-first regiments, the Second Battery and two troops of Squadron B.

In command of the Western force was Colonel Seward. Colonel Daniel Appleton, of the Seventh, commanded the Eastern force. To each of these bodies orders were issued by Brigadier-General Louis Fitzgerald. The orders of each were in the form of a letter, and were written in actual war which each commander was to work out for himself. Major Avery D. Andrews, Brigade Engineer, acted as chief of staff to Colonel Seward, and Major Van Duzer, Major Harriman and Captain Smith, of the brigade staff, as aides. Lieutenant Colonel Olin, Assistant Adjutant General, acted as chief of staff to Colonel Appleton. The others were Major Montant, Major Roosevelt and Captain Coster.

**Orders for Commanders.**

This order was given to both bodies: "Commanding officers will handle their men as if in the actual presence of an enemy, will not unnecessarily expose themselves, and will exercise the greatest discretion in the use of their arms. They will be careful to observe the instructions given with the least possible delay. The movements of the troops will be carried out deliberately. The firing of infantry and artillery will be kept at a minimum, and the ground between the branches of the N. Y. & C. R. R. and the Hudson River will be considered as an impassable obstacle."

So it was bound to be in earnest. It was only the special care exercised by the officers, before the fray began, to see that no ball cartridge had gotten into anybody's possession made the day an easy one for the ambitious general who kept the roads of Westchester from being choked with the remains of a very able lot of young men.

**MRS. NACK IS CONTENT.**

Queens County Jail Physician Says That Both She and Thorne Are Receiving Good Care.

At the request of District-Attorney Youngs, Lawyers Joseph Moss and "Manny" Friend visited the Queens County Jail yesterday and interrogated Martin Thorne and Mrs. Nack regarding the quality of the food they have been receiving. The visit was prompted by the report that the Sheriff had drugged their food with a view of having the prisoners confess while in the custody of the jail.

Both Mrs. Nack and Thorne denied that the food was bad or unfit to eat. They expressed satisfaction at the treatment they have been receiving and said that they were perfectly content with the meals. They denied that at any time they had been made sick by the food provided, and said that on the contrary the quality of the food for prison fare was extremely good. Although he now denies it, Sheriff Adair told two newspaper men that he had "fixed" Thorne and Mrs. Nack's food with the hope that while in a sick condition they would tell something about the under of William Golden-suppe.

It is said now that the Sheriff told it as a joke, and that it was taken seriously. Dr. George Forbes, the jail physician, said yesterday to a Journal reporter: "You can say for me that no tricks are being played on either Mrs. Nack or Martin Thorne so far as their food goes. Contrary to reports which have been circulated about their mental condition, neither Thorne nor Mrs. Nack seems to be depressed."

The Sheriff yesterday swore out a war-

rent for the arrest of Edward Clarke, who escaped from the jail after delivering Mrs. Nack's letter to the Journal reporters. The warrant was signed by Justice Ingraham. He is wanted to answer that Mrs. Nack delivered the letter to him.

**NEW CRAVEN-FAIR SUIT.**

Claim for a Share of the Californian's Millions Based Upon the Marriage Contract Signed in 1892.

San Francisco, Cal., Oct. 9.—Mrs. Nettie Craven, undisturbed by the recent adverse decision of Judge Slack, will reassert her claims as the widow of James G. Fair to a large share of his millions.

She intends to base her demand on the marriage contract. Within the next few days the first of a series of suits will be instituted. One of the plaintiff's attorneys states that it will follow immediately on the filing of the findings and the perfecting of the appeal from Judge Slack's decision. The basis of Mrs. Craven's contention is that she is the widow of James G. Fair who was the marriage contract that was produced in Judge Slack's court on August 8, 1892. It reads as follows:

"I, James G. Fair, do hereby take

Nettie R. Craven to be my lawful wife.

(Signed) JAMES G. FAIR.

"I take for my lawful husband James G. Fair.

(Signed) NETTIE R. CRAVEN."

Don't worry if you're short of funds,

Or at your hard luck about;

Remember that through Journal "Wants"

You may secure a loan.

which their batteries were still screaming. The cavalry of the invaders, broken off from their endeavor to make way along Gun Hill road toward Woodlawn, had retired by detour to the same centre of retreat. The Seventh delaying across the valley to the north of the mansion, there were its two divisions, one to the westward, the other to the north, in the plain, and thus the two sides of a wall slowly forced the adversary back upon its batteries.

In the first place they say that records of the towns of Flatbush, Flatlands, New Lots, New Utrecht and Gravesend, were annexed some time ago to Brooklyn, are missing, and that their absence interferes with the experts' investigation.

In answer to the charge (Corporation Counsel Burr, of Brooklyn, said yesterday:

"The records of the county towns were taken to the precincts, Mr. Donald, when the towns were annexed. A clerk was arranging these records when I came into office, and since then Mr. Wood, whom I placed in charge, has arranged them all in order. He told me today that he never failed to supply records when asked to do so, and that every record requested by the experts has been given to them immediately."

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"The next point made by the experts are that the 22 indices in the Department of Arrears of Taxes, containing over 200,000 accounts, are not balanced, and have apparently been tampered with."

"The indices are not balanced, and have apparently been tampered with. There are discrepancies between the books of the Comptroller and those of the Department of Arrears. On January 1, 1897, the balance of the debt of the Department of Arrears was \$3,148,828.05. While the general index of the Department of Arrears has been overpaid \$17,253.40, the ward indices have overpaid many items of unpaid taxes. The balance of the permanent water loan in the Bond Department ledger shows in the balance of this loan in the Comptroller's office, although the Bond Department ledger shows that money bonds have been redeemed than were issued to the extent of \$9,000. The bond register likewise shows that two bonds of \$1,000 each, one issued were presented for payment, that the clerk changed the number of one and that another was not registered. Each for a like amount, were issued therefore, Registrar of Arrears Powell made this statement:

"The experts have made no examination of the books of this department. They have been overpaid. But that was before the indices were made. The indices were made by the Board of Assessors, which have been entered in the books of his department. The discrepancy is not in the same manner in the books of the Comptroller."

**Blamed to the Experts.**

"The discrepancies also arose in part in connection with the well-known Everts law, which was put in force when Seth Low was Mayor of Brooklyn. Under this law the assessors were allowed to reduce the taxes which were in arrears upon property. Reductions were made and were entered in the books of the two departments. All these matters took place long before the Comptroller, Palmer or myself became officials of the city. In the same manner in the books of the Comptroller."

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